

Mentor Michigan Presentation at the National Guard Leadership Conference in Kalamazoo

Sunday, March 16, 2008

Strong leadership and a commitment to caring are a powerful combination, especially when they're used to support a cause like mentoring the youth of our state. This was the case at the Michigan National Guard Leadership Conference in Kalamazoo on March 16, 2008. Unit Commanders from across the state were watching the DVD *Mobilizing Mentors: Hometown heroes mentoring hometown kids*. Mobilizing Mentors is a partnership between the Michigan Army and Air National Guard and Mentor Michigan. Colonel James R. Anderson invited Mentor Michigan to the conference to engage Unit Commanders in the effort to recruit 500 new mentors by 2010.



General Cutler encourages Unit Commanders to get involved with mentoring.

Major General Thomas G. Cutler talked with the Unit Commanders about the initiative. He spoke about the high school dropout rate and how many of Michigan's youth are not prepared for life. He discussed the importance of mentoring and how the men and women of the National Guard would be ideal mentors and great role models for struggling youth.

He encouraged Unit Commanders to become a part of this partnership by mentoring kids and by sharing the information with their units back home.

Sergeant Jerred Johnson, who was featured in the *Mobilizing Mentors* DVD, was also recognized. Musette A. Michael, executive director of the Michigan Community Service Commission, presented his commanding officer, Lieutenant Colonel Curtis J. Royer, with a photograph of Sgt.



Musette Michael recognizes Lt. Colonel Curtis J. Royer for supporting Sgt. Jerred Johnson, who has been mentoring for three years.

Johnson, Tony (his mentee), and First Gentleman Dan Mulhern. Mulhern inscribed the photograph with the words, "Thanks for your heroic leadership." Ms. Michael explained the support the National Guard will receive from Mentor

Michigan including a Tool Kit that was distributed to all Unit Commanders in attendance. The Tool Kit includes the DVD featuring Retired General Colin Powell, First Gentleman Mulhern, and Major General Thomas G. Cutler, highlighting the importance of mentoring and the great need for mentors.



Colonel James R. Anderson introduces the Mobilizing Mentors initiative.

